



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

December 13, 2007

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Celebrate the Holiday Season with a Night Drive through Saguaro National Park - East

Signs of the season are everywhere around the city of Tucson – sparkling lights, evergreen trees, fuzzy toy animals. Saguaro National Park's Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) invites the public to come experience the real thing during a special Holiday Car Caravan in December. This year's activity is designed to provide an unusual night-time drive on the Park's scenic Cactus Forest Drive. Along the way there will be stops and short walks that will focus on star-lit skies, evergreen desert trees, and winter wildlife – symbols of the holiday season that thrive in the scenic acres of the Park.

"This is the perfect family activity during the holidays," says Melanie Florez, Park Ranger at Saguaro. "The auto tour format allows everyone to join in – and maybe warm up between stops along the drive." Each tour will include stops at park overlooks and a short walk on a paved trail. Park Rangers will explain the importance of natural resources in our celebrations of the holiday season. "It's also a great place to find out what desert mistletoe looks like," adds Florez, "and we've scheduled it after the Christmas rush when friends and children are looking for something new and different to do."

The program will be held on the evening of Saturday, December 29. Tours will last about 90 minutes, departing from the visitor center at 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, and 7:30 pm. The Rincon Mountain Visitor Center is located at 3693 South Old Spanish Trail (approximately 3 miles east of Houghton Road). Car-pooling is encouraged both to the park and during the tour. Exhibits, refreshments, and gift sales will be available before and after the tours. Normal park entrance fees apply, and the Saguaro and Interagency Annual Passes will be accepted. **Space is limited and reservations are required.** For additional information, or to make a reservation, call the park at 733-5153, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily (except Christmas Day).

08-08